(b) whether any special insurance scheme is being formulated for weavers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The Government of India has been implementing various developmental schemes for handloom weavers namely Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), Handloom Export Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Design Development And Training Programme (DDTP), Marketing Promotion Programme and Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for providing support for the development of the handloom sector in the country.

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his Independence Day address to the Nation on the 15th August, 2002, had announced a special contributory insurance scheme for one million weavers and artisans combining the Janshree Bima Yojana with Group Insurance Scheme. Accordingly 'Bunkar Bima Yojana' which is a combination of Janshree Bima Yojana and Add-on Group Insurance Scheme has been included as a component under the comprehensive scheme called "Weavers'Welfare Scheme-" proposed to be implemented during the Tenth Plan period.

Cotton production in the country

906. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total cotton production in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the total share of the country's exports in the world in terms of percentage; and

(c) the details of factories/units targeted to upgrade through Technology Mission on Cotton since its inception in 2000, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) The total production of cotton in the country during the last three years is as under:

		(In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)	
Year (Oct.-Sept.)	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Production	156	140	158

(b) The total share of the country's cotton export in the world was 0.41 % in 2000-01 and 0.27% in 2001 -02.

(c) So far 221 ginning and pressing factories have been sanctioned for modernisation under Technology Mission on Cotton with an estimated cost of Rs. 271 crore including Government of India share of Rs. 47 crore. Number of ginning and pressing factories sanctioned State-wise are, Punjab (1), Rajasthan (1), Gujarat (107), Madhya Pradesh (20), Maharashtra (79), Andhra Pradesh (6), Karnataka (5) and Orissa (2).

Import of cotton

907. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a)whether firm global prices and better quality of local produce have cut India's cotton imports in the year 2002;

(b)if so, the reasons therefor;

(c)the total imports of cotton during 2002;

(d)to what extent it will reduce in 2003;

(e)the cotton production made in the country during 2002 and 2003; and

(f) to what extent it will be sufficient to meet the local demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Import of cotton during cotton year 2001 -02 (Oct.-Sept.) increased marginally to 24.70 lakh bales (of 170 kg. each) as compared to 22.13 lakh bales during cotton year 2000-01.

(c) Import of cotton during cotton year 2001 -02 (Oct.-Sept.) was 24.70 lakh bales (of 170 kg. each).

(d) Import of cotton during cotton year 2002-03 (Oct.-Sept.) is estimated at 20 lakh bales (of 170 kg. each).

(e) Cotton production during cotton year (Oct.-Sept.) 2001-02 and 2002-03 is 158 lakh bales and 152 lakh bales (estimated) respectively.